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CONCLUSIONS

1. Sweden's geographic location, sizeable economic resources, and considerable military potential give it substantial strategic importance to both NATO and the USSR. Of chief importance is Sweden's potential role in the defense of Scandinavia, and particularly Norway, against a Soviet attack.
2. Despite its pro-Western and anti-Communist outlook, Sweden will probably cling to its "alliance-free" policy as long as possible, even in event of war.
3. However, Sweden might join the NATO powers in event of a Soviet attack on Norway, provided that the NATO forces could come quickly to its defense. Moreover, Sweden would certainly fight if itself attacked.
4. The chief consequence of Sweden's "no-alliance" policy is that it hampers the development of adequate Scandinavian defenses and leaves Scandinavia highly vulnerable to a Soviet attack. On the other hand, war-time Swedish neutrality would deprive the USSR of its most direct avenues of attack against Norway.
5. If Sweden remained neutral in event of war while the USSR occupied Norway, Sweden would be effectively isolated from the West. Its valuable trade with the West would be cut off and it would be forced, under Soviet economic pressure, to make an important contribution to the Soviet war economy.

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6. Once overall NATO capabilities had substantially increased, the USSR might not undertake an early Scandinavian campaign and Sweden could no longer be wholly cut off from the West. Swedish neutrality in this event would be considered advantageous by the USSR, as it would prevent the NATO powers from making offensive use of Swedish forces and bases.

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